

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 2, and to delete the parentheses. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claim 3 has been amended to insert formula (2) and to delete the parentheses. Claim 5 has been amended to depend on Claim 3. Upon entry of this Amendment, which is respectfully requested, Claims 1, 3-8 and 11 will be pending. Applicants also submit herewith a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 and respectfully request that the Examiner consider the experimental data contained therein.

Response to Claim Rejections Under § 103

A. Claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP 434596 to Hahn; and

B. Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over [Hahn in view of] U.S. Patent No. 4,076,668 to Kaneda.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Hahn discloses a high modulus rubber composition prepared by using terephthaloyl chloride and hydroquinone. More particularly, an object of Hahn is to provide a high modulus rubber composition. Hahn fails to disclose or suggest improved adhesion between a coating rubber and a steel cord.

According to the presently claimed invention, the adhesion, especially humidity-aged adhesion, between the rubber composition (coating rubber) and the steel cord can be highly improved by using (a) a compound represented by presently claimed formula (2), or (b) a composition containing the compound represented by the presently claimed formula (2) and a

compound represented by the presently claimed formula (3) in a rubber composition for a coating rubber.

In this regard, Applicants submit herewith a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 by Ms. Kim Fujiki demonstrating the unexpectedly superior results of the presently claimed invention.

As shown in the Rule 132 Declaration, Comparative Examples B and D, comprising a derivative of hydroquinone, have higher humidity-aged adhesion as compared to the Control (additive-free). However, Working Example A, comprising a compound derived from resorcin and adipoyl chloride has further improved humidity-aged adhesion as compared to Comparative Example B.

In addition, Working Example C, comprising a compound derived from resorcin and succinyl chloride has further improved humidity-aged adhesion as compared to Comparative Example D.

Thus, the attached Rule 132 Declaration clearly demonstrates that a derivative of resorcin provides unexpectedly superior improvements to adhesion. These results (i.e., improvement in the adhesion, especially humidity-aged adhesion, between the rubber composition and the steel cord) cannot be expected from Hahn.

Kaneda does not make up for the deficiencies of Hahn.

Thus, Hahn and Kaneda fail to render obvious the present claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

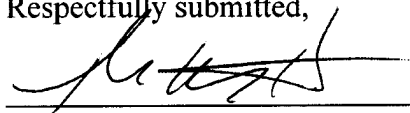
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Date: November 23, 2010